

KEEPING in step with the times, Wycombe Wanderers will try out the Sunday Soccer experiment when they meet Corinthian Casuals at Loakes Park at the weekend. The Rothman's Isthmian League game will be played on Sunday, January 13, k.o. 2 p.m. And most people seem to favour the move.

Mid-week told the Bishop of Buckingham about it and he said that he was perfectly happy for football to be played on Sunday afternoons. But he would prefer that they did not play on Sunday mornings.

Could try again

"Football must change its ideas soon and Sunday football may be the answer. The gates at Bolton Wanderers and Cambridge yesterday were tremendous and financially it could be a real benefit to clubs.

"Our match against Casuals will be a bit of an experiment. But if it proves successful, we will obviously try it again."

Wycombe Wanderers, of all clubs, could benefit dramatically by the Sunday switch. One of the best supported amateur sides in the whole of the South of England, they recently attracted a crowd of 12,000 in their recent F.A. Cup games against Peterborough United and 7,000 against Newport. With many clubs struggling financially, this may well prove something of a lifesaver.

Most other local clubs are still staging their matches on Saturdays. The Wycombe League played a full programme of games on Saturday and have no plans, as yet, for Sunday soccer.

Some Hellenic League clubs played yesterday and Ernest Turners, the Totteridge Works club, have decided to meet New Bradwell St. Peter on Sunday, as several of their players are working the previous day. They, too, kick off at 2 o'clock as some players will also be involved with Sunday morning soccer.

Victorian ideas

The present legal rulings causing technical difficulties to football clubs wanting to charge ad-

mission to Sunday games were Victorian and should be changed, the Bishop of Buckingham told Mid-week.

"If one is going to have Sunday play, then let's have Sunday play," he said.

Bishop Pepys said he was perfectly happy for football to be played on Sunday afternoons, but he would prefer that football not be played on Sunday mornings, so that people had a chance to attend church.

The present rulings on Sunday gate sales might be supported by the Lord's Day Observance Society. However he was perfectly happy if people wanted to watch football on Sunday afternoon.

Bishop Pepys' view on the acceptability of Sunday after-

another, either in work or in some organised activity.

Asked whether he would advise members of his church against attending Sunday games Mr. Balmer said he would think that, by and large, members would not be going.

The Rev. John Webster of the Baptist Church at Beaconsfield said his personal view was that Sunday should be kept as Sunday.

He was not happy at the idea of Sunday sport. He did not think it would affect church attendances, but he was against the development in principle.

Turn to God, but . . .

A Roman Catholic priest, Father D. Walne, of High Wycombe, said his view was that people should turn to God during the day, but should otherwise be free to do whatever they liked.

"Very few people do go to church these days," he said.

"If they come along to church and want to worship then I think they are free to do whatever they like for the rest of the day, whether it is digging the garden or shouting at a football match."

The Rev. Francis Watts, of St. Marks Methodist Church, High Wycombe, said his personal view was that every day was a Holy Day. Sunday served as a reminder of the sanctity of all life.

His own view was that on Sunday worship had a prior claim over everything else.

But recreation was not anti-Christian. What an individual did on Sunday was up to himself and his own conscience. Mr. Watts thought people should guard against the use of Sunday for commercial exploitation.

Vicar's view

Approval of Sunday football after midday has been voiced by the Vicar of High Wycombe, the Rev. John Crisp.

Mr. Crisp said that he was in favour of Sunday football and of the Continental Sunday.

"We fall between two stools in this country," he said. "The Sabbatharians say no football on Sundays and non-Church people say 'we have a right to do what we like'."

"The answer is the compromise of the Continental Sunday, when the shops are closed and there are no organised sports before noon."

Commentary by Stuart Earp and Arnold Pickmere

noon football appears to be shared by many local clergy in other denominations.

The notable exception is the Baptist Church, which does not seem to be happy at recent developments, and the three day week's encouragement of Sunday sport.

The Rev. G. A. J. Balmer of the Union Baptist Church, High Wycombe, said he was disappointed at the present trend to Sunday sport.

Would bring problems

From a community point of view he thought it created as many problems as it solved.

One could see the point of view of the people involved in organising Sunday football and the effect of the present industrial situation.

But the Baptist Church's point of view, Mr. Balmer said, was that Sunday had a value, spiritual and moral, a day when people were not required to be committed in one way or